1	2	3
16.	Orissa	15 (closed/merged)
17.	Punjab	17
18.	Rajasthan	Nil
19.	Tamil Nadu	Nil
20.	Uttar Pradesh	1
21.	Uttarakhand	Nil
22.	West Bengal	Nil
	TOTAL:	100

Broadband services in the country

1221. SHRI AMAR SINGH:
SHRI UDAY PRATAP SINGH:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government had set a target of 9 million Broadband connections by 2007 and 20 million by 2010;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government are satisfied with the pace of development in this field keeping in view the present growth rate; and

(d) if not, the steps which are being taken to increase the penetration of Broadband services in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) to (d) Yes, Sir. The Broadband Policy, 2004 envisaged 9 million Broadband connections by 2007 and 20 million Broadband connections by 2010 through various technologies like Optical Fibre Technologies, Digital Subscriber Lines (DSL) on Copper Loop, Satellite Media, Terrestrial Wireless, Cable TV Network and Future technologies.

As on 30th June 2007, about 2.5 million Broadband connections have been provided in more than 1,000 towns. In order to increase the penetration of Broadband services in the country, various steps being taken, *inter-alia*, are:

(i) Both outdoor and indoor usage of low power Wi-fi and Wireless Broadband systems in 2.4 GHz-2.4835 GHz band, and use of low power indoor systems in 5.15-5.35 GHz & 5.725-5.875 GHz have been de-licensed.

(ii) Indian Telegraph Act, 1885 has been suitably amended in December, 2006 to enable provision of support from Universal Service Obligation Fund (USOF) for Provision of Broadband connectivity to villages in a phased manner and induction of new technological developments in the telecom sector in rural and remote areas.

(iii) An Inter Ministerial Group (IMG) having representation from Ministry of Health, Home, Human Resource Development, Panchayati Raj and Department of IT has been formed to work out the requirements of various user Departments/Ministries for planning the roll out of Broadband infrastructure in rural areas with support from Universal Service Obligation Fund (USOF).

(iv) USOF is also implementing a scheme for supporting shared infrastructure for mobile services in rural and remote areas which are not covered by wireless signal. This infrastructure will be used to provide Broadband connectivity from the newly covered Block/Taluka headquarters.

Third Generation Wireless Communication Services

1222. SHRI UDAY PRATAP SINGH:
SHRI AMAR SINGH:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government had received any recommendations from TRAI regarding 3rd Generation Wireless Communication Services in September, 2006;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) by when the licences are expected to be awarded and to how many operators;

(d) whether Government are considering to allow foreign operators for 3G services and if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether there is any proposal under Government's consideration to accommodate one of its Public Sector Undertakings therein;

(f) the other players who are likely to be accommodated therein; and

(g) by when the process of licensing is likely to be completed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The main recommendations made by TRAI in September, 2006 regarding the spectrum for 3G services are given in the Statement (*See* below).

(c) to (g) A Committee constituted to examine these TRAI Recommendations, taking into account various relevant issues, has submitted its report. The spectrum allotment guidelines for 3G services would be framed taking into account all relevant aspects.